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May 26, 2005

Mr. Charles L. A. Terreni  
Chief Clerk/Administrator  
South Carolina Public Service Commission  
Synergy Business Park, The Saluda Building  
101 Executive Center Drive  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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**Re: Petition of MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC for Arbitration of Certain Terms and Conditions of Proposed Agreement with Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Home Telephone Company, Inc., PBT Telecom, Inc., and Hargray Telephone Company, Concerning Interconnection and Resale under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 Docket No. 2005-67-C**

Dear Mr. Terreni:

I am writing pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-3-40(C) to request that a hearing officer be appointed in the above-referenced matter. This is a joint request of MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC ("MCI") and Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Home Telephone Company, Inc., PBT Telecom, Inc., and Hargray Telephone Company (collectively, the rural local exchange carriers or "RLECs"). We have also contacted the Office of Regulatory Staff, and they do not object to the appointment of a hearing officer in this matter.

The reason for requesting appointment of a hearing officer is that the parties would like to mutually propose some changes in the procedural schedule for this arbitration. Specifically, MCI and the RLECs are interested in exploring a modification of the schedule with respect to filing of pre-hearing briefs and proposed orders, and in modifying the time for the Commission to resolve the issues raised in this proceeding in order to allow time for the filing of post-hearing briefs and proposed orders. In addition, MCI and the RLECs believe it would be beneficial to have a hearing officer appointed to address such other procedural issues as may arise prior to and during the hearing on this matter.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions about this matter, please let me know.

**McNAIR LAW FIRM, P.A.**

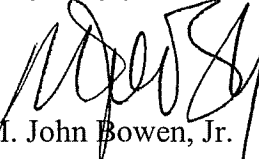
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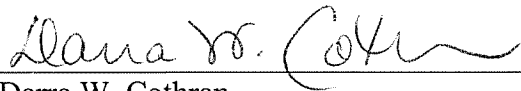
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Very truly yours,



M. John Bowen, Jr.

WE SO JOINTLY MOVE:



Darra W. Cothran

Kennard B. Woods

Attorneys for MCImetro Access Transmission  
Services, LLC

cc: Florence P. Belser  
Wendy B. Cartledge